

STATEMENT ON CRP FOR THE  
RECORD**HON. RICK HILL**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I'm increasingly concerned about the timing of USDA's sign-up putting cropland into the national Conservation Reserve Program. From the information I receive, Montana farmers and ranchers would like to postpone the CRP sign-up for 1 year.

Language in the farm bill directed USDA to issue CRP rules 3 months after enactment. The deadline was missed by several months and the lateness of the current sign-up has led to much uncertainty in Montana. Montana growers who want to bid land into CRP are told by USDA they will not know whether they're accepted until June or July.

Farmers need certainty. They need to know; should they prepare land for planting wheat or for establishing a cover suitable for long-term enrollment in the program. If they aren't CRP-accepted, they're caught between nature's seasons and USDA's process. We can't change nature, but we can change the rules to help not hinder our farm families.

My friends and neighbors are not the only ones confused about this delayed sign-up. I am informed that even local officials running the program are unclear about some of the new rules. None of this bodes well for farmers who need to make decisions about the future use of their land.

Worse still, under the new CRP rules some of the most environmentally sensitive land for CRP is likely to receive a bid so low that farmers may decide to put these lands into crops, turning the program and its purpose upside down.

Mr. Speaker, I support the CRP program and so do Montanans who currently have over 2.85 million acres in CRP. It's voluntary and incentive-based. It's a good program for keeping marginal crop land in grass to prevent soil erosion and provide wildlife habitat.

However, I do not want my farmers to agonize over doing the right thing. I applaud USDA for their hard work, but the framework for decision is too short and it occurs too late in the farm year. It is also not well understood and has led to much uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, I call on USDA to work with Congress. Take the time and energy required to look at this situation and do the right thing. Postpone the new CRP 1 year, so farmers can make plans for next spring. We can do better and we should.

DR. ERNEST S. GRIFFITH

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Dr. Ernest S. Griffith, who passed away at the age of 100 on January 17, 1997. Dr. Griffith served the Congress faithfully for 18 years as Director of the Legislative Reference Service, now the Congressional Research Service.

Considered by many to be the father of the Legislative Reference Service, Dr. Griffith

transformed a fledgling agency into a vital source of expert information and analysis for Members of Congress and their staffs. When he came to the LRS in 1940, Dr. Griffith had a staff of 40 to handle some 25,000 requests per year. Resources within the legislative branch were scarce, and the Congress depended largely on the executive branch and special interests for its information.

By the time Dr. Griffith left the LRS in 1958, his staff had grown to 200, and the number of congressional requests received per year had tripled. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 had expanded the LRS's mission and given it a permanent statutory basis for the first time in its history. Experts had been recruited from all manner of disciplines to provide the legislative branch with its own pool of knowledge and information. For the first time, the Congress had available to it a select group of experts who were both knowledgeable and nonpartisan, and who could be trusted and called on at any time for help. If ever a man left his mark, Ernest Griffith left his indelibly on the Legislative Reference Service.

Prior to 1940, Dr. Griffith's career was largely in university teaching and administration. After receiving his A.B. degree from Hamilton College, he was appointed a Rhodes scholar and received a Ph.D. from Oxford University. While at Oxford, he was the warden of Liverpool Settlement House. He taught economics at Princeton and government at Harvard, and was the undergraduate dean at Syracuse University before moving to Washington in 1935.

In 1935, Dr. Griffith served as dean of American University's graduate school, where he also taught political science. He returned to American University in 1958 as the founding dean of the School of International Service. Dr. Griffith was a Fulbright visiting professor at Oxford and a lecturer at New York, Birmingham, and Manchester Universities, Swarthmore College, the University of Oslo, and the University College of Swansea.

After retiring from American University in 1965, Dr. Griffith was visiting professor at the International Christian University and Rykko University in Japan, and lectured on American government in Turkey and Brazil. He was professor of American government at Alice Lloyd College in Kentucky in his middle eighties.

A prolific writer, Dr. Griffith authored numerous articles and books about the Congress, the Presidency, and the history of American city government. His book, "The American System of Government," was translated into more than 25 languages.

Between lectures and his duties as Director of the Legislative Reference Service, Dr. Griffith devoted himself to serving and improving the world around him. He founded the Pioneers, a forerunner of the Cub Scouts, chaired the policy board of an interuniversity training center for Peace Corps volunteers, and chaired the Council of Social Agencies, a predecessor of the United Way. He taught Sunday school, served as a delegate to the Third World Council of Churches, and was treasurer of the Wilderness Society. He was also vice president of the American Political Science Association and president of the National Academy of Economics and Political Science.

Mr. Speaker, Ernest Griffith was a man of intense passion and boundless energy, who dedicated his life to serving the public good. This is his legacy to us, and this is the legacy

we honor here today. To his children, Margo, Alison, Lawrence, and Stephen, his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, I extend our deepest sympathies.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. FRANCIS  
HOSPITAL**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the men and women of St. Francis Hospital, which this year proudly celebrates 40 years of dedicated service to the residents of Milwaukee's south side.

Nestled into a residential neighborhood, St. Francis Hospital for decades has realized that health care means more than the latest advances in medical technology. In fact, health care is about people, the people who come to the hospital for care and the professionals who provide it. Even during this day and age, a time of great change in health care, St. Francis Hospital remains committed to its founding vision: reaching out to care for those in need. And, the hospital remains true to the philosophy of their founding Felician Sisters, whose focus is a dedication to care and compassion for the whole person—body, mind, and spirit.

Residents of Milwaukee and the surrounding communities are truly fortunate that they can seek care and comfort at a leading institution such as St. Francis Hospital. Excellence shows through in the hospital's comprehensive specialty programs: orthopedics, advanced surgery, obstetrics, and cardiac care, to name a few. In addition, the Wisconsin Laser Center, the Center of Neurological Disorders and the Center for Children's Orthopedics, all located at St. Francis Hospital, are recognized as leaders in their fields, both in Wisconsin and the Midwest.

My colleagues certainly realize that fine facilities and modern equipment are essential in providing health care services today, but I truly believe it is the people of St. Francis Hospital, the Sisters, employees, medical staff, board of directors, volunteers, guild members, benefactors and friends, who have been the major force in continuing the hospital's fine tradition of Christian caring for the sick and injured over the last 40 years.

Congratulations, St. Francis Hospital on 40 outstanding years of care and compassion for Milwaukeeans, and best wishes for continuing success in the next 40 and well beyond.

KEEPING ALIVE THE HONOR OF  
MILITARY SERVICE: CONFED-  
ERATE AIR FORCE DESERT  
SQUADRON**HON. LARRY COMBEST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, in the history of this great Nation, when threatened by foreign powers, the people of the United States rally, we fight and we win. However, once we have secured the blessings of liberty—or